

century has shown how difficult it is to calculate on the strength of Churches. Its first decade witnessed the dethronement of the Pope by Napoleon ; its terminating decade, his flight from Rome under the terror of his revolutionary subjects. And yet Popery possesses at the present time a vast empire in the minds of men ; and it has just dared to perpetrate, in consequence, one of its boldest aggressions on the most powerful empire in the world. And that aggression has brought out the great strength of another Church, which, about the time of the passing of the Reform Bill, was deemed so far from strong, that statesmen of no inconsiderable calibre held that almost any sort of liberty might be taken with the status of her dignitaries, or with her property. It seems unquestionably true, that the present powerful anti-Popish movement, which has done what the zeal of Dissent could never do,—stirred the nation to its very depths,—has arisen among the English Episcopalians, and has been a direct consequence of what the Dissent of England and the Presbyterians of Scotland regard as a very inconsiderable element in the matter,—the encroachment on the domains of the English bishops. We recognise in the fact the correctness of the impression made upon us when residing for a short time in England a few years ago. We crossed the borders in the belief, pretty general, we are disposed to think, among Scotchmen, that the active power of non-conformity in the southern kingdom was not much less than a match for the mere passive power of its Established Episcopacy : we came away full under the conviction that the two powers are so very unequal, that it is scarce wise to name them together. Established Episcopacy in England represents the soldiers of a vast army leaning silently on their arms ; whereas English Dissent may be rather likened to the handful led by Gideon, making great show and much noise, but, unless miracles be wrought in their behalf, not